

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method to increase fiber length ~~for altering fiber length development~~ of a cotton plant comprising the step of providing cells of a cotton plant with a chimeric gene comprising the following operably linked DNA fragments:

a plant expressible promoter selected from a constitutive promoter, a subclover stunt virus promoter, a fiber ~~fiber~~ specific ~~or fibre-enhanced~~ promoter, a primary cell wall promoter or a secondary cell wall promoter;

the coding region from a plant sucrose synthase gene; and,

a transcription termination and polyadenylation signal which functions in said plant cells.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said coding region from a plant sucrose synthase gene is translated into an active plant sucrose synthase protein.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said coding region from a plant sucrose synthase gene comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claims 4-7. (Canceled)

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of claims 1, 2, or 3, wherein said promoter is a subterranean clover stunt virus promoter.

Claims 9-14. (Canceled)

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A cotton plant comprising in its genome a chimeric DNA comprising the following operably linked DNA fragments:

a plant expressible promoter selected from a constitutive promoter, a subclover stunt virus promoter, a fiber ~~fibre~~ specific ~~or fibre-enhanced~~ promoter, a primary cell wall promoter or a secondary cell wall promoter;

the coding region from a sucrose synthase gene; and,

a transcription termination and polyadenylation signal which functions in said plant;

said cotton plant having increased fiber length ~~altered fiber length development~~, compared to cotton plants which do not have said chimeric DNA.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A cotton plant according to claim 15, wherein said coding region from a plant sucrose synthase gene is translated into an active plant sucrose synthase protein.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The cotton plant according to claim 15, wherein said sucrose synthase gene comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claims 18-21. (Canceled)

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) Seeds of a cotton plant according to any one of claims 15, 16, or 17, said seed comprising said chimeric DNA.

Claim 23. (Canceled)

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) Fibers with increased fiber length ~~altered development or properties~~, isolated from cotton plants according to any one of claims 15, 16, or 17.

Claim 25. (Canceled)

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) Cotton plants obtained through the methods of any one of claims 1, 2, or 3.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) Cotton plants obtained through the method of claim 8.

Claims 28-30. (Canceled)